WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for receiving content of a communication within a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving information associated with the communication, the information referencing content stored on one of a plurality of content servers on the network, the one of the content servers being closest to an anticipated access point for the communication;

accessing the referenced content from the one of the content servers; and

displaying the communication using the received information and the accessed content.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the interpreting step further comprises:

analyzing the received information to determine an instruction set associated with the communication, the instruction set having at least one reference to the content; and

executing the instruction set to display an initial part of the communication.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the accessing step further comprises:

requesting the content in response to the step of executing the instruction set having the at least one reference to the content; and

receiving the content from the one of the content servers.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the requesting step further comprises:

generating a request for the content; and

sending the request to the one of the content servers.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content from the one of the content servers in a predefined streaming format.

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6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving a stream of data representing the content from the one of the content servers and processing the received stream of data before displaying the received stream of data.

7.   A system in a network for receiving a communication, comprising:

a processor;

a display device coupled to the processor;

a communications interface coupling the processor to the network; and

the processor being operative to

receive information associated with the communication, the information referencing content stored on one of a plurality of content servers, the one of the content servers being closest to an anticipated access point for the communication,

access the referenced content on the one of the content servers through the communications interface, and

cause the communication to be displayed on the display device using the received information and the accessed content.

8.   The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is further operative to:

determine an instruction set based upon the received information, the instruction set being associated with the communication and having at least one reference to the content; and

execute the instruction set to cause an initial part of the communication to be displayed on the display device while the referenced content is accessed on the one of the content servers.

9.   The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is further operative to generate a request for the content and send the request to the one of the content servers through the communications interface.

10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the communication interface is operative to receive the requested content in a predefined streamed format from the one of the content servers.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the communications interface is further operative to provide the content in the predefined streamed format to the processor; and

wherein the processor is further operative to receive the content from the communications interface and process the content to cause the content to be displayed on the display device.

12.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for receiving a
communication using a plurality of content servers within the network, which when
executed, the instructions comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one reference to content associated with the
communication, the content being stored on one of the content servers that is closest to an
anticipated access point for the communication;

receiving a basic amount of information associated with the
communication;

displaying a first part of the communication using the basic amount of
information;

accessing the content on the one of the content servers; and

displaying a second part of the communication using the accessed content.

13.   The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of
displaying the first part of the communication further comprises displaying a background
color of the communication.

14.   The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of
displaying the first part of the communication further comprises displaying an animated
portion of the communication.

15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of
displaying the first part of the communication further comprises displaying a graphical
representation of information on the sender of the communication.

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16. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the accessing step further comprises:

generating a request for the content based upon the at least one reference to the content;

sending the request to the one of the content servers which locates the content; and

receiving the content from the one of the content servers.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content directly from the one of the content servers without transferring the content to another of the content servers.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content from the one of the content servers in a predefined streaming format.